

# The Gospel Unashamed

"From the cowardice that shrinks from new truth, from the laziness that is content with half-truths, from the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth, O, God of Truth, deliver us."

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~ All articles are written by Terry Carter unless otherwise stated ~

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## Five Things to Look Forward to After You're DEAD

--By Shane Capps

There are so many views when it comes to the afterlife, but there are two main worldviews in our nation.

### The first one is that everyone goes to Heaven.

It doesn't matter if the person ever accepted Christ or not. It doesn't matter if the person ever had a desire to go to the Lord's Church. It doesn't matter if the person ever desired to crack open a Bible and read what is in it. It doesn't matter if the person ever desired to pray.

There are many who have the view that all roads lead to God in the end.

### The second worldview is that nothing happens after you're dead.

There are many who don't believe in an afterlife. They never believed in God, His Church, His Word, or anything religious. The only thing these people look forward to is 'nothing'.

The facts are the facts! Right now, in this world the death rate of the human race is 100%. That's right! No matter who you are. No matter how much or little you have. No matter how much or little education you have. No matter your race, gender, religion, options, net worth, or health you and I will one day die if the Lord continues to wait to come back.

### Then What?

The Bible teaches that there is an afterlife, or everlasting life. The person may be dead physically, but they are still alive spiritually.

How can this be? We are given a soul when we are created. **Genesis 2:7** says, "Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being."

"Being" means soul. Man became a 'living soul'. We have a spirit given to us at conception when we were created. Yes, life starts at conception.

In fact, after you're dead you are still alive spiritually. The Bible teaches us this. We need to realize this. Our example is with the rich man and Lazarus.

**Luke 16:24-25** says, (24) And he cried out and said "Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue; for I am in agony in this flame." (25) But Abraham said, "Child, remember that during your life you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here, and you are in agony."

Notice: The rich man was dead physically (**Luke 16:22**), but he was still alive spiritually.

He could still... Talk, hear, see, smell, taste, touch, feel, think, reason, understand, and REMEMBER.

He was dead, but very much alive. In fact, the rich man's senses may have been better than when he was alive.

So, when you are dead you are not going to be on a cloud playing a harp.

When you are dead there is not going to be "nothing."

When you are dead it is not going to be whatever you make up or think it is going to be.

After you're dead you will still have something to look forward to.

In fact... **There are five things you and I have to look forward to after we are DEAD.**

By looking at the Scriptures we see what they are.

### Number One:

After you're dead you will look forward to... **The Second Coming.**

In the Old Testament there are over 300+ prophecies that foretell the coming Messiah. They start in **Genesis 3:15** foretelling that Jesus would come into the world. The Old Testament teaches that Jesus would die on the cross, be placed in the grave, and arise from the dead. That is just what happened, **1 Corinthians 15:3-4**. After Jesus' resurrection He was on this earth for forty days speaking about the kingdom of God.

It was at Jesus' ascension back to the Father that we are reminded that He will come again.

**Acts 1:9-11** says, "(9) And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. (10) And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was departing, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them; (11) and they also said, Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven."

We are promised that Jesus will come again. He has been waiting now for the last two thousand years. I don't know when Jesus is coming, and no one does; but we are two thousand years closer. It could happen any day now!

**1 Thessalonians 5:2** says, "For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night."

The Lord promised He's coming back! So, after you're dead, as well as the living, you will have to look forward to the Great Second Coming of Jesus Christ. It will be a day for the Christian and non-Christian alike.

It will be a day for the living and the dead! Every person will face God's judgment. After you're dead you will still look forward to this day!

### Number Two:

After you're dead you will look forward to... ***Resurrection of the dead.***

There are many graveyards in our world. The funeral home business is big business. A funeral today can cost you between \$10,000 to \$15,000. Just the grave plot can cost between \$500 to \$1,500.

The truth is, we should not be buying grave sites. We should only be renting them. As with Jesus, what goes in the grave will come out again!

To say it another way, our body goes to the ground and one day our soul will go back into our body, and it will be raised up. At the great Second Coming of Christ there will be a

resurrection of the dead. It is a bodily resurrection.

**1 Thessalonians 4:16** says, "For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first."

How can this be? It is simple: because Jesus arose, we will as well. Because Jesus lives, we will live as well.

**Matthew 28:6** says, "He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying."

We have the victory in Christ. It will be fully realized when He comes back. When Jesus comes, your soul will go back into your body, and it will be resurrected from the dead.

**1 Corinthians 15:51-52** says, "(51) Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, (52) in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed."

It will be a day for the Christian and non-Christian. It will be a day for the living and the dead! After you're dead you will still look forward to this day!

### Number Three:

After you're dead you will look forward to... ***The Judgment.***

It is a lie that the world believes that all roads lead to God. It is a lie in the context that the world means it. Not all roads lead to salvation. Only through Jesus Christ can a person find salvation in the Lord. **John 8:24; Acts 4:12**

What is true is all roads do lead to God's judgment seat!

**Hebrews 9:27** says, "And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment."

Every person will face God's judgment. We all judge ourselves by whether or not we accepted Christ. It is our choice, and we choose our own outcome. On the Great Judgment Day God will pass the final sentence and have the last word, as He should. He alone is God!

**Revelation 20:12** says, "And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds."

We will be judged by the sixty-six books of the Bible. For the Christian, our names are written down in the book of life. The Great Day of Judgment is for everyone. Every person will face God's judgment. After you're dead you will still look forward to this day!

### Number Four:

After you're dead you will look forward to... ***Heaven or Hell. (It's your choice to make!)***

Jesus died and paid for the sins of the world. Because of what Jesus did on the cross and by being raised from the dead, salvation is now offered to all men. This is God's mercy.

Salvation is for everyone. It is up to each person what they will do with the offer of salvation. It is everyone's choice! That is God's grace.

He has given us the choice to choose for ourselves what we will do with that offer. God doesn't send anyone to Heaven. He has made a way for us to come. God doesn't send anyone to hell. The person sends themselves by rejecting Jesus as Lord of their life. So yes, there is a real Heaven and a real hell.

Right now, when Christians die in the Lord, they go to Paradise or Abraham's side.

**Luke 16:22** "Now it came about that the poor man died and he was carried away by the angels to Abraham's

bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried.”

After Christ comes back at the Great Second Coming, we Christians will all go to Heaven together for the first time.

**John 14:2-3** says, “(2) In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; (rooms) if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. (3) And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”

For those who have died outside of Christ, they end up in hell.

**Luke 16:24** says, “And he (rich man) cried out and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue; for I am in agony in this flame.”

After Christ comes back at the Great Second Coming, the one who rejected Christ and who has been in hell has something far worse to look forward to. The wicked will all go to this place for the first time together.

**Revelation 20:14-15** says, “(14) And death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. (15) And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life he was thrown into the lake of fire.”

**Matthew 25:46** says, “And these (those on His left which is the goats) will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous (those on His right which are the sheep) into eternal life.”

It is our choice where we end up after we are dead. It is up to us. What will you choose?

After you’re dead you will still look forward to this day!

### Number Five:

After you’re dead you will look forward to... **Eternity.**

This is a word that we need to think about. The Bible teaches that a full life is 70 years old. A life with strength is 80 years old.

In Arkansas, we used to say that at 90 years old you shouldn’t buy brown bananas and at 100 years old, you don’t need to stock up on food. With all jokes aside, this life only lasts so long and then it’s gone. Time flies. It goes fast. The older you get, the faster it goes.

**James 4:14** says, “Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.”

Eternity means “everlasting, or never ending”. After you’re dead there is no more time. Time doesn’t matter anymore. Heaven and the Lake of Fire will last forever, for eternity, for everlasting, and it will have no end.

**1 Thessalonians 4:17** says, “Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and thus we shall always be with the Lord.”

That’s great if you are with the Lord in Heaven. Think about it! How about if you are the one who rejected the Lord, and you must spend eternity in pain and suffering?

People don’t want to think about death. They often don’t want to think about the afterlife without the Lord. They don’t want to think about ending up in hell.

Friends, we must face these truths before time runs out!!! Time always runs out for everyone. After you’re dead you will still look forward to eternity!

I leave you with a few more Scriptures to think about while you are still alive.

**John 3:36** says, “He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

A Christian is one who believes what God says and does what He says. We believe Him and obey Him. Because of this we have eternal life with Him.

For the one who rejects Him as Lord they will only be left with one thing. The wrath of God will remain on them.

Jesus is coming back! What is He coming back to do? We know for the Christian that He’s coming back to take us home.

How about the one who rejects Him as Lord?

**2 Thessalonians 1:7-8** says, “(7) and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, (8) dealing out retribution to *those who do not know God* and to *those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.*”

Friends don’t be fooled. Do not believe in the lies of this world. Death is not the end. Not everyone goes to Heaven.

There are five things to look forward to after you’re dead. The only thing different is **where you will go** after death. It’s up to you.

Have you become a Christian or do you keep putting it off thinking you have time?

Have you become a Christian or do you think you can just work it out with God after you die?

Have you become a Christian or do you not care about tomorrow?

Come to Jesus while you still can. Today is the day of salvation.

Don’t let it pass you by!

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## Was Dinah a Virgin After she was Raped?

Let's begin by giving a little background information here. In **Genesis Chapter 34**, we read about one of the ugliest incidents during the time of the patriarchs. Dinah, the daughter of Jacob, went out to see the daughters of the land. When she did that, Shechem raped her but then wanted to marry her.

Her brothers were very upset about this whole thing but agreed to let her marry Shechem on the condition that all their males were circumcised. On the third day, when all the men of Shechem were sore from circumcision, Simeon and Levi went in and slaughtered all the males including Shechem and his father, Hamor. They took all their livestock, plundered all their wealth and took the women and children captive.

When Jacob heard about what they had done, he was afraid that they would be attacked by their neighbors. He feared that he and his household would be destroyed. His sons answered that Shechem should not have treated their sister like a harlot.

There is plenty of blame to be laid on multiple parties in this incident. However, it clearly all came about because of Shechem's reprehensible actions towards Dinah. The account makes it clear that he "defiled" and "violated" her.

"2 And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, prince of the country, saw her, he took her and lay with her, and **violated her**...5 And Jacob heard that **he had defiled Dinah** his daughter. Now his sons were with his livestock in the field; so Jacob held his peace until they came." **Genesis 34:2, 5 (NKJV)**

The question as to whether Dinah was called a virgin **after** she was raped comes from verse 3. However, it does not come from any of the English translations that I am familiar with. For comparison, I've given a few notable English

translations below with the relevant words in bold:

"His soul was strongly attracted to Dinah the daughter of Jacob, and he loved the **young woman** and spoke kindly to the **young woman.**" (NKJV)

"And his soul clave unto Dinah the daughter of Jacob, and he loved the **damsel**, and spake kindly unto the **damsel.**" (KJV)

"But [a] he was deeply attracted to Dinah the daughter of Jacob, and he loved the girl and [b] spoke tenderly to her." (NASB)

"And his soul was drawn to Dinah the daughter of Jacob. He loved the young woman and spoke tenderly to her." (ESV)

"His heart was drawn to Dinah daughter of Jacob; he loved the young woman and spoke tenderly to her." (NIV)

The key Hebrew word here is "*naarah*". The above translations render it as "damsel", "young woman", and "girl".

This word occurs 62 times in the Old Testament. It is translated "damsel" 34 times in the KJV, "maiden" 16 times, "maid" 7 times, "young" 4 times, and "young woman" once. Strong's says the word means "a girl, damsel, female servant, young woman", etc. Genesius says it means "a girl, handmaid, or servant".

There is nothing about the Hebrew word itself, or the way it is translated into English by most popular translations, to indicate that Dinah is called a virgin in this verse.

The question arises from the Septuagint which is a translation from the Hebrew into Greek. There, the Hebrew word "*naarah*" is translated as the Greek word "*parthenos*" which means "virgin".

The only time I have ever heard this issue raised is when somebody is trying to discredit the Septuagint translation. This whole discussion is usually motivated by a desire to discredit the Septuagint's translation

of **Isaiah 7:14**. In that verse, the Septuagint translates the Hebrew word "*almah*" as the Greek "*parthenos*" meaning "virgin". This question is not really about **Genesis 34:3**, but about **Isaiah 7:14**.

The argument goes like this. It is pointed out that Dinah is called a "*parthenos*" by the Septuagint after she was raped. The intention is to put a defender of the virgin birth on the horns of a dilemma. Either it must be conceded that the Septuagint is in error here or it must be admitted that "*parthenos*" does not really mean "virgin" and the translators of the Septuagint knew it.

If the first alternative is chosen, it will be argued that the Septuagint is an untrustworthy translation and thus cannot be trusted in its translation of **Isaiah 7:14**.

If the second option is taken, it follows that the Septuagint translators did not believe that **Isaiah 7:14** was predicting a virgin birth. Thus, no matter which alternative is chosen, serious doubt is cast upon the prediction of a virgin birth in **Isaiah 7:14**.

However, there are several flaws in this reasoning.

**First**, let's assume, for the sake of argument, that the Septuagint translators were simply in error in their translation of **Genesis 34:3**. This certainly does not prove that they were in error in their translation of **Isaiah 7:14**. It is certainly possible to make an error in one place but not in another.

Further, to take the position that an error was made in the Septuagint in **Genesis 34:3** is an admission that "*parthenos*" means "virgin".

Proposing an error in the Septuagint's translation of the **Genesis** passage does nothing to help the opponents of the virgin birth as predicted in **Isaiah 7:14**. It actually hurts them as it concedes that the Septuagint predicts the virgin birth in the **Isaiah** passage.

**Second**, it does not follow from the use of “*parthenos*” in reference to Dinah that it does not mean “virgin”. Nor does it follow that the translators of the Septuagint believed that “*parthenos*” does not mean “virgin”. The Septuagint translators could have intentionally used a Greek word here that they knew to mean “virgin” for any number of reasons.

Let’s look more carefully at the passage in question.

“1 Now Dinah the daughter of Leah, whom she had borne to Jacob, went out to see the daughters of the land. 2 And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, prince of the country, saw her, he took her and lay with her, and violated her. 3 His soul was strongly attracted to Dinah the daughter of Jacob, and he loved the **young woman** and spoke kindly to the **young woman.**” **Genesis 34:1-3 (NKJV)**

Suppose the words “young woman” in verse 3 are properly translated “virgin” instead. What would that mean? Would it follow that Dinah was called a virgin after she was raped? I maintain that it does not.

Rather, it would follow that she was a virgin at the time she was raped. The emphasis would be on the fact that he had not only raped a woman, but that he had raped a virgin. It is entirely possible that the translators of the Septuagint were trying to impress this very thing upon the reader.

Notice that the narrative in verses 1-3 are presented as a single event in time. That is, he saw her, he took her, he lay with her, he violated her, was attracted to her, loved her, and spoke kindly to her all at the same time. To read this as a progression of events each happening after the other is likely a mistake.

Was he only attracted to her **after** he violated her? That is absurd. Why would he take her, lay with her, and violate her if he was not attracted to her? When exactly did he love her and speak kindly to her? Was it only after he had violated her? It is possible that the account is telling us

that he loved her and spoke kindly to her before, during, and after he violated her. That in no way minimizes his guilt. In fact, it makes it that much worse. He raped a girl that he loved, spoke kindly to, and later wanted to marry. That is very twisted behavior.

The original Hebrew structure of these verses also indicates that the events of verses 2 and 3 happened simultaneously. These verses contain a series of what is called vav-consecutives. Essentially, that is a list of actions strung together by conjunctions to indicate a quick series of events or events occurring simultaneously. It can be illustrated in English as follows:

And he saw her...  
And he took her...  
And he lay with her...  
And he violated her...  
And he was attracted to her...  
And he loved her...  
And he spoke kindly to her.

As you can see below, the King James version comes close to capturing this construction.

“2 And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, prince of the country, saw her, he took her, **and** lay with her, **and** defiled her. 3 **And** his soul clave unto Dinah the daughter of Jacob, **and** he loved the damsel, **and** spake kindly unto the damsel.” **Genesis 34:2-3 (KJV)**

The Septuagint translators evidently recognized this Hebrew construction as they used the Greek conjunction “*ka*” meaning “and” to begin each of the phrases in these verses. This is as close as you can come to mimicking the Hebrew vav-consecutives in Greek.

This indicates that the translators were not saying that she was a virgin **after** he raped her, but **when** he raped her. This is further indicated by the fact that when the same Hebrew word “*naarah*” occurs in reference to Dinah in verse 12, the Septuagint translates it with the Greek word “*pais*” which means “child”. What happens in verse 12 is some time after she was raped. It is

not part of the rape event like what happened in verses 2-3. Thus, the Septuagint translators do not refer to her in verse 12 as a “*parthenos*”, or “virgin”. The idea is that she was a virgin when she was raped, but she was no longer a virgin after she was raped.

There is no need to conclude that the Septuagint translators made an error in translating **Genesis 34:3** or that their translation of that verse indicates that “*parthenos*” does not mean “virgin”. Nor does their translation indicate that Dinah was a virgin **after** she was raped. It simply indicates that she was a virgin **when** she was raped.

Finally, it needs to be pointed out that the proper translation of **Isaiah 7:14** does not depend upon the Septuagint in the first place. Nor does the virgin birth depend on the Septuagint. The proper translation depends on the Hebrew text itself. I have addressed that issue in a separate article which was published in *The Gospel Unashamed* in October of 2022.

The Septuagint’s translation of **Isaiah 7:14** does indicate that the men who made that translation believed that it was predicting a virgin birth. That is useful evidence for the virgin birth, but the virgin birth does not depend upon that alone. There are many other reasons for believing in the virgin birth.

In the end, this whole discussion about the Septuagint’s translation of **Genesis 34:3** really has no bearing on the virgin birth. The virgin birth stands regardless of whether the Septuagint is credible. It stands whether it’s translation in **Genesis 34:3** is an error. It has plenty of support with or without the Septuagint.

Was Dinah still a virgin after she was raped? Obviously not, but I’m not convinced that anybody ever said she was.

The Septuagint does say that she was a virgin at the time she was raped, but that is very different than what this question assumes.

## Not All Fools are Rich

For the last year or so, I have been watching various people on YouTube who do book reviews. I find it helpful when deciding what books I want to read, and sometimes, the thoughts that they share are quite interesting.

One woman made several videos that I found especially interesting. She was obviously a very intelligent, well-spoken, and well-read individual. Her thoughts on the books she reviewed were insightful and useful. At the start of this year, I watched a video that she had made to discuss the books she planned to read in 2024. She was obviously looking forward to continuing her hobby of reading in the new year.

About a week and a half into this new year, I received quite a shock when one of her new videos came up in my recommended section that was less than a minute long. (Her videos were usually twenty to thirty minutes long.) It was simply titled "In Memory". It showed her picture with a note her mother wrote to announce that she had passed away just a week before of unknown causes.

I really do not know anything about this woman's personal life. I had the impression that she was single, and the information on the video showed that she had just turned thirty-one in December. I doubt that I will ever hear anything as to why she died so suddenly and unexpectedly.

When I recovered from the shock of this news, I could not help thinking about the parable Jesus told about the rich fool. Specifically, the unexpected nature of the rich man's death.

"16 Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: 'The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. 17 'And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' 18 'So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. 19 'And I will

say to my soul, 'Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.'" 20 "But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' 21 "So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." **Luke 12:16-21 (NKJV)**

The problem for the man in this parable was that he counted on money instead of God. He spent all his time laying up treasures on earth to enjoy in the future when he had no future here.

What struck me after the death of this woman, was that many people are very much like the rich fool without being rich. They are not distracted by riches, but they are distracted by their hobbies.

Although I do not know anything about the young woman who died, I doubt that she was rich or put her trust in riches. I have no idea whether she was religious at all. But I do know that she had plans for her future, although, unknown to her, she had no future on this earth. Her plans were not about riches, they were about her hobby of reading. There is nothing wrong with having a hobby, just like there is nothing wrong with riches. In fact, reading is usually a very healthy hobby, at least for your mind.

There is nothing wrong with making plans for the future either. While most of us have no idea how much longer we will live, we must plan as though we will be here for some time yet. To make no plans at all is surely foolish. I have my own plans for what books to read this year. That is healthy and practical.

However, any plans that we make need to take God into consideration. The rich farmer focused on his treasure to the exclusion of God, he was never able to enjoy his treasure. When we focus on our hobbies to the exclusion of God, we may not even get to enjoy our hobbies. A Christian will plan in such a way that if they live, they serve Christ, and, if they die,

they go to be with Him. Either way, Christ is glorified, and we are wise rather than foolish. This is what Paul did.

"For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain." **Philippians 1:21 (NKJV)**

Unfortunately, there are many fools who are not rich. Their focus is simply on their hobbies and interests. They put all their efforts into this world without thinking about how temporary our time here really is.

Whether or not this woman on YouTube was wise regarding God, I do not know. My sincere hope is that she was wise and prepared to meet the Lord. Either way, I hope we can all learn something from her sudden death - **plan for tomorrow but be prepared to die tonight.**

When you think about the parable of the rich fool, remember that not all fools are rich. Whether you are rich or not, do not die a fool.

### ~ WHEN FRIENDS PRAY ~

I thank you, Lord, for Christian friends who care enough to pray; Their prayers brought peace into my soul and rolled my doubts away.

Yesterday was a dreadful day,  
With fear and doubt and gloom;  
Somehow I could not find real joy,  
For love there was no room.

Too burdened was my weary heart  
I thought, dear Lord, to pray;  
But Christians saw my downcast look  
And prayed my blues away.

Where doubts and fears did then  
assail, now courage does renew;  
Thank you, Lord, that friends do love,  
And brought my cares to you.

--Dorothy Stoffell

## The Genealogy of Jesus Matthew 1:1-17

### INTRODUCTION:

- A. It is rather common for people to kind of skip over genealogies in the Bible.
- B. This is even true of the genealogy of Jesus.
- C. They often see it as just a list of largely unfamiliar names with no apparent purpose.
- D. But they are recorded for a reason, and we can learn a number of important lessons from them if we take the time to examine them carefully.
- E. I want to look at the genealogy of Jesus and see what lessons we can learn.
- F. But first we need to consider the difference between Luke and Matthew's accounts of His genealogy.

### LUKE VERSUS MATTHEW

- A. It is obvious with just a bit of comparison that Matthew and Luke give different accounts of the genealogy of Jesus, **Luke 3:23-38**.
  - 1. Matthew works forward from Abraham to Jesus.
  - 2. Luke works backwards from Jesus all the way to Adam.
  - 3. But the list of names is completely different.
- B. Atheists have tried to claim that there is a contradiction here - was Jacob or Heli the father of Joseph?
  - 1. Certainly Luke would not contradict Matthew's account, **Luke 1:1-4**.
  - 2. He knew that Matthew's account was true, but he also knew that what he was saying was true.
  - 3. This is not a problem at all as Joseph is the son-in-law of Heli.
  - 4. That is, Heli was the father of Mary.
  - 5. Notice that Jesus is not the son of Joseph in the normal sense, nor is Adam the son of God in the normal sense.
  - 6. Also, when a Hebrew genealogy ended with a

daughter, they would name her husband instead.

- 7. Even today, we often refer to a man's son-in-law as his son and he may call his father-in-law, dad.
- 8. This argument is strengthened when we consider that the nativity story is told in **Matthew** from Joseph's perspective but in **Luke** it is told from Mary's.
  - a. Matthew records Joseph's hesitation in marrying her and the angel's visit to him, but not the angel's visit to Mary.
  - b. Luke records the pregnancy of Elisabeth, Mary's relative.
  - c. Luke also records the angel's visit to Mary, her visit to Elisabeth, Simeon's statement to Mary in the temple, etc.
  - d. It is Luke that tells of Mary keeping all these things in her heart after Jesus was found in the temple at the age of 12.
- 9. Jesus' lineage after the flesh is told by Luke, His legal lineage is told by Matthew.
- 10. Both are important for different reasons.
- C. Matthew and Luke were recording their genealogies for different purposes.
  - 1. **Matthew**, written to the Jews, is primarily showing that Jesus has a legal right to the throne through Joseph going back to David and Abraham.
    - a. The Jewish Old Testament ends with **Chronicles**, which contains a lot of genealogies.
    - b. **Matthew** is intended for a Jewish audience.
    - c. It is really a continuation of the Old Testament, so it begins with genealogies.
    - d. Matthew shows that Jesus succeeded as the Son of God where Israel failed as His son.

- 2. **Luke**, written to the Greeks, is showing the universal impact of Jesus' birth as a son of Adam who is the son of God Himself.

- D. Both show His Divinity and the miraculous nature of His conception, **Matthew 1:18-25**, **Luke 1:26-38**.

### MATTHEW IS NOT MAKING UP THIS STORY

- A. Imagine you are Matthew, and you are trying to write a book to convince the Jews that Jesus is their Messiah and King.
- B. You already have one strike against you in that you are a tax collector who the Jews distrust to begin with.
- C. You decide that the best way to begin is to show that Jesus has a legal claim to the throne of David.
- D. But you have a problem - some of His genealogy is not very pretty.
  - 1. To tell the story honestly, you must include women in your account.
  - 2. Not only that, but there is a problem with every woman that you are going to mention.
  - 3. It includes Gentiles like Rahab and Ruth.
  - 4. Not only that, but it also includes Tamar who played the harlot and thus got pregnant by her own father-in-law.
  - 5. Bathsheba, the adulteress, is not named but she is mentioned through her husband, Uriah.
  - 6. So, right up front, you have a number of things to deal with which the Jews are going to frown upon.
    - a. Women
    - b. Gentiles
    - c. Prostitution
    - d. Incest
    - e. Adultery
    - f. Murder
- E. Here you have some choices:
  - 1. You can leave out the embarrassing stuff.
  - 2. Or you can include it and be completely honest.

3. Matthew included it because it is instructive for us all.
4. He doesn't even try to sugar coat it like the following:
  - a. A wealthy person who had their family tree done and discovered one of their ancestors was given the electric chair in the state prison.
  - b. They insisted that it be left out or they would refuse to pay.
  - c. So, the report said that 'he sat in the chair of applied electricity in one of the state's finest institutions; his death was quite a shock'.
- F. But he surely would not have made this up if it weren't true.
- G. Likewise, he probably wouldn't have included it if it weren't important.
- H. It might be worth noting that Matthew's account does leave some well-known gaps in his list.
  1. The reason he does this is obvious from verse 17.
  2. It is a memory device to help us remember.
  3. The gaps are easily filled in from **Ezra Chapter 7** and his readers would be familiar with them.
  4. But notice that he doesn't skip over the embarrassing details.
  5. Instead, he skips the benign details.
  6. This is instructive for us.

### JESUS HAD SKELETONS IN HIS FAMILY CLOSET, TOO

- A. I've never spent much time researching my family tree.
- B. I've always been afraid of what I might find.
- C. Just based on what I know of my living relatives, I imagine that a lot of it is not too pretty.
- D. I have an aunt, who I rarely see, that spends a great deal of time doing that research.
  1. Evidently, she finds her dead relatives more interesting than the living ones.
  2. I'm not sure what that says about me, I'll leave that for you to decide.
- E. It's easy to think that you can never measure up because your family's got problems.

1. But you are not bound to repeat their mistakes.
2. Your value is not determined by how your ancestors acted.
3. Your value is determined by the choices you make and the life you live.
- F. Jesus' ancestors were sinners, but He was without sin Himself.

### JESUS IS FULLY HUMAN – HE IS THE SON OF ADAM

- A. It is Luke that records this for us.
- B. He also records much of what happened to Mary – Jesus' only human parent (biologically speaking).
- C. It's easy to imagine Jesus as too Divine to sympathize with our problems.
- D. But He left the glories of Heaven to become God in the flesh.
- E. Not only that, but He was created in all points like us, **Hebrews 2:17-18**.
- F. Jesus knows what it is to be tired, poor, hungry, thirsty, despised and rejected, to cry, and even to experience pain and death.
- G. Rest assured, Jesus understands your weaknesses and He sympathizes with them.

### JESUS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS

- A. That is the main point of the whole book of **Matthew**.
- B. He clues us in to this right at the start by saying that Jesus is the son of David.
- C. This shows that Jesus can be the fulfillment of the promises about "David's seed sitting on His throne forever".
- D. In the second chapter of Matthew, the magi come seeking the King of the Jews.
- E. Every chapter of **Matthew** continues to show Jesus as the King of the Jews.
- F. Right up to the accusation placed on top of His cross to the Great Commission where He claims all authority in Heaven and on earth has been given to Him.
- G. The main point of Matthew's genealogy is to show His legal right to the throne.

### JESUS IS THE SEED OF ABRAHAM

- A. Matthew doesn't just present Jesus as the son of David, but also the son of Abraham.
- B. This is designed to show that he can be the promised Seed of Abraham.
- C. God had promised Abraham that by his seed all the nations would be blessed, **Genesis 22:18**.
- D. This was the one promise to Abraham that had not yet been fulfilled.
- E. It was fulfilled in Jesus as Paul makes plain, **Galatians 3:16**.
- F. The blessing of Abraham for the world is not the nation of Israel, it is Christ Jesus.

### JESUS CAME FOR THE GENTILES, TOO

- A. We just mentioned that through Jesus all nations are blessed.
- B. While Matthew is written to the Jews to show Jesus as their King, he also shows that the Gentiles will benefit from Jesus' coming as well.
- C. We see it in the genealogies which include the Gentiles - Ruth and Rahab.
- D. We see it in **Chapter 2** when the Gentile magi come to worship Him and bring Him gifts.
- E. We see it in the Great Commission when He says to make disciples of all nations.
- F. I am thankful that through Jesus, salvation is available for all men, not just Jews.
- G. He is not just the Jewish King, He is our King, He is the King of Kings.

### CONCLUSION:

- A. I'm sure that there are many more lessons to be learned from the genealogies.
- B. I hope next time you read them you don't just skip over them.
- C. I hope you appreciate the lessons we can learn from them.
- D. Jesus is not a myth, He lived in history; His family tree is documented.
- E. His is not a cleverly invented story.
- F. He lived, died, was buried, rose again, and ascended to Heaven where He sits on His throne forever.
- G. He is our King and our Savior.